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Data Driven Auditing

Data and Analytics in Assurance

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Megatrends: The Changing Business World





Explosive population growth occurring in some areas against declines in others contributes. Between 2010 and 2050, the global number of people who are 100 years or older will have increased tenfold Realignment of global economic and business activity is transitioning BRIC and other growth countries from centers of labor and production to consumptionoriented economies

The movement of populations out of suburbs and rural areas and into cities is changing how people live and work. By 2050, the urban population of the world is expected to increase by 72%

Accelerating

urbanisation

Climate change and resource scarcity

Scarcity of resources and the impact of climate change are of growing economic concern. Demand for energy is forecasted to increase by as much as 50% by 2030, and water withdrawals by 40%



breakthroughs

The amount of information we have to manage is rapidly expanding. Data is generated from every action taken on every Internet-enabled device

Megatrends: Technological Breakthroughs



Implications

- The combination of the internet, mobile devices, data analytics and cloud computing will continue to transform our world
- New competitors will emerge as technology and innovation create new competitive advantages and increase productivity across sectors and geographies
- The ability to gather and analyze data in real time may become a requirement for doing business, rather than a competitive advantage

Evolving to a Data Driven Audit

Better experience for clients

Save time through reduced effort to pull supporting documentation due to easy accessible data

Better experience for auditors

Shift substantive testing and controls testing towards automated data discovery and validation

More valuable insights

Increase value of the audit by providing information that can help companies refine processes, improve efficiency and anticipate future problems



The Audit Analytics Opportunity



Deliver insight.. not just information



Data Analytics Example – Utility Industry

Live Demo

Maturity Scale for Audit Analytics



High

Barriers to Success

Avoid common pitfalls by implementing a strategy

- Failure to modify the audit methodology such that analytics are seen as just a bolt on to the existing audit procedures
- Incorporating analytics in fieldwork only and not using data to inform audit areas
- Structuring the analytics team in a silo, separate from the core audit team
- Lack of consideration given to the softer side of an analytics strategy, including people management and organizational change management
- Embarking on a strategy that does not leverage connection points within the organization (IT, compliance, operations, etc.)





Recommendations for Evolving Skill Sets in Auditing

Current core skills

Understanding of:

- Fundamentals of accounting, including financial accounting, managerial accounting, taxation, and financial reporting systems
- Generally accepted accounting principles, policies, procedures, and auditing standards
- How to tie accounting needs back to regulatory needs

New skills likely to be needed

Knowledge on how to:

- Research and identify anomalies and risk factors in underlying data
- Mine new sources of data and use insights to bring new value to the business
- Use exploratory multivariate statistics, inferential statistics, visualization tools, optimization methods, machine learning, and predictive analysis tools
- Process-mine using new data analysis techniques and algorithms, to isolate and investigate specific processes that might have led to changes to the data/accounting ledgers

Questions and Contacts

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